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Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement on the fifth part of its first session, held in Bonn from 30 April to 10 May 2018

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I. Opening of the session
(Agenda item 1)

1. The fifth part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) was held at the World Conference Center in Bonn, Germany, from 30 April to 10 May 2018.

2. The Co-Chairs of the APA, Ms. Sarah Baashan (Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention) and Ms. Jo Tyndall (Parties included in Annex I to the Convention), opened the resumed session on Monday, 30 April, and welcomed all Parties and observers.

3. The Co-Chairs informed Parties of the unavailability of the APA Rapporteur, Ms. Anna Serzysko (Parties included in Annex I to the Convention), to attend the session.

II. Organizational matters
(Agenda item 2)

A. Election of officers
(Agenda sub-item 2(a))

4. The APA considered this sub-item at its 12th meeting, on 30 April.

5. The Co-Chairs reminded Parties that the members of the APA Bureau had been elected at APA 1.4 for a second consecutive term of one year, until December 2018.[1] Therefore, no action was required under this sub-item at this part of the session.

B. Adoption of the agenda
(Agenda sub-item 2(b))

6. The APA considered this sub-item at its 12th meeting.

7. The APA adopted the agenda for its first session at its 2nd meeting, on 20 May 2016.[2] Since the first session of the APA is ongoing, that adopted agenda continues to apply, with the exception of one sub-item that was concluded at APA 1.2 following the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on 4 November 2016.[3]

C. Organization of the work of the session
(Agenda sub-item 2(c))

8. The APA considered this sub-item at its 12th meeting.

9. APA 1.4 had agreed that the modalities for the organization of work adopted at APA 1.1 would be applied at APA 1.5.[4] The APA agreed to uphold that agreement. Consequently, a contact group was set up to consider agenda items 3–8 in a single setting and to launch informal consultations on the individual agenda items.

10. At its 13th meeting, on 30 April, which was held jointly with the 2nd meetings of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), statements were made by 21 Parties, including 14 on behalf of groups of Parties, namely: the African Group; the Alliance of Small Island States; the Arab Group; Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay; the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Treaty; the Coalition for Rainforest Nations; the Environmental Integrity Group; Brazil, China, India, South Africa; the European Union and its member States; the Group of 77 and China; the Independent Association for Latin

[1] FCCC/APA/2017/4, paragraphs 4 and 6.
[2] FCCC/APA/2016/2, paragraph 9.
[3] FCCC/APA/2016/4, paragraph 9.
[4] FCCC/APA/2017/4, paragraph 25.

America and the Caribbean; the least developed countries; the Like-minded Developing Countries; and the Umbrella Group. Statements were also made on behalf of business and industry non-governmental organizations (NGOs), environmental NGOs, indigenous peoples organizations, local government and municipal authorities, research and independent NGOs, trade unions NGOs, women and gender NGOs and youth NGOs.[5]

11. At the 1st meeting of the contact group referred to in paragraph 9 above, the APA agreed that the informal consultations referred to in the same paragraph would be facilitated by the following co-facilitators:

(a) Agenda item 3: Mr. Sin Liang Cheah (Singapore) and Ms. Gertraud Wollansky (Austria);

(b) Agenda item 4: Mr. Julio Cordano (Chile) and Ms. Beth Lavender (Canada);

(c) Agenda item 5: Mr. Xiang Gao (China) and Mr. Andrew Rakestraw (United States of America);

(d) Agenda item 6: Mr. Xolisa Ngwadla (South Africa) and Ms. Outi Honkatukia (Finland);

(e) Agenda item 7: Ms. Janine Felson (Belize) and Mr. Peter Horne (Australia);

(f) Agenda item 8 (matters relating to the Adaptation Fund): Ms. Maria del Pilar Bueno (Argentina) and Mr. Pieter Terpstra (Netherlands);

(g) Agenda item 8 (other matters): Ms. Baashan (Saudi Arabia) and Ms. Tyndall (New Zealand).

12. Subsequently, the contact group met twice during the session, once to take stock of progress and again to consider the APA conclusions.

13. On 5 May, the APA Co-Chairs and the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI convened a joint informal plenary to inform Parties of progress in the work of the SBI, the SBSTA and the APA pertaining to the implementation of the Paris Agreement work programme (PAWP). The joint meeting was organized in response to Parties' request to address the linkages across bodies and to manage the work on the PAWP in a coherent and balanced manner.

14. At its 15th meeting, on 10 May, which was held jointly with the 4th meetings of the SBSTA and the SBI, the APA heard closing statements (see para 34 below).

III. Report on agenda items 3–8

(Agenda items 3–8)

1. Proceedings

15. The APA considered these items at its 14th meeting, on 10 May, and adopted the conclusions below.

2. Conclusions

16. The APA made good progress in its work at this session, following up on its mandate and responding to the request of the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-third session to the subsidiary and constituted bodies to accelerate their work on the PAWP and to forward the outcomes to COP 24 (December 2018) at the latest.[6]

17. The APA welcomed the submissions made by Parties before and at this session.[7]

[5] The texts of the statements, including those that were not delivered during the plenary meeting, are available at https://unfccc.int/submissions_and_statements.

[6] Decision 1/CP.23, paragraph 4.

[7] Available at https://unfccc.int/submissions_and_statements.

18. While recognizing the progress achieved at this session as reflected in document FCCC/APA/2018/L.2/Add.1, the APA noted that work needs to be accelerated across all PAWP items to ensure that all issues achieve the degree of maturity and detail needed to fully operationalize the Paris Agreement.

19. The APA reiterated its recognition of the need to progress on all items in a coherent and balanced manner, and to ensure the consideration of matters relating to the PAWP by the SBI, the SBSTA and the APA is closely coordinated. In view of this, the APA requested its Co-Chairs to consider, in consultation with the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI, preparing, by mid-August 2018, a joint reflections note addressing progress made to date and proposing ways forward.

20. The APA also requested the secretariat to update, based on the outcomes of this session, the online platform[8] referred to in paragraph 3 of decision 1/CP.23, which provides an overview of the work of the COP and the subsidiary and constituted bodies on the PAWP.

21. To facilitate deliberations at APA 1.6 (September 2018), the APA requested its Co-Chairs, with the assistance of, to the extent possible, the persons who facilitated work on the relevant matters at this session, to prepare, by 1 August 2018, tools that are additional to and based on the informal notes contained in document FCCC/APA/2018/L.2/Add.1, including proposals for streamlining the outcome of the APA at this session and examples of how Parties could further progress towards the development of an agreed basis for negotiations, taking account of the level of maturity and delicate balance achieved to date for individual items. The streamlining should not imply the insertion or deletion of substantive concepts and textual narratives.

22. The APA noted that the tools referred to in paragraph 21 above will be prepared by the Co-Chairs under their own responsibility, and emphasized that at this stage in the negotiations it will be important to ensure all options identified by Parties remain on the table, recalling the right of any Party to make submissions to be considered under the relevant agenda items.

23. The APA requested its Co-Chairs to coordinate closely with the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI to work towards a comparable level of progress and preparedness with respect to all PAWP items, including the work referred to in paragraphs 20–22 above.

24. With regard to time management, the APA noted some improvements made at this session, in particular with respect to the clustering of issues into thematic areas for scheduling purposes. At the same time, the APA expressed its concern about the insufficient amount of time available for the deliberations on adaptation communications, finance-related issues and the transparency framework for action and support, and requested the APA Co-Chairs to take these concerns into account in scheduling work at APA 1.6.

25. Recognizing the importance of linkages across several PAWP items, the APA agreed that conducting a well-planned and structured one-day round table, open to Parties only, in the pre-sessional period before APA 1.6, with a focus on substantive linkages could help to advance the negotiations and should be organized, subject to the feasibility of the relevant logistical and organizational arrangements at the venue of that session. The APA emphasized that any round-table arrangements should not overlap with groups' coordination meetings in the pre-sessional period and should allow for the effective participation of delegates from developing countries. The APA noted the usefulness of expanding the focus of the round table to address linkages to the PAWP items outside the APA mandate, and requested its Co-Chairs to consult on this with the Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI.

[8] https://unfccc.int/node/28798/.

26. The APA reiterated its commitment to continuing to work in an inclusive, transparent, Party-driven and efficient manner. To that end, it agreed to continue to apply at APA 1.6 the modalities for the organization of its work that were adopted at APA 1.1.[9]

27. The APA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraph 25 above. The APA requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

IV. Other matters

(Agenda item 9)

28. The APA considered this item at its 12th meeting. No other matters were raised or considered.

V. Closure of and report on the session

(Agenda item 10)

1. Administrative and budgetary implications

29. At the 14th meeting, the Deputy Executive Secretary provided a preliminary evaluation of the administrative and budgetary implications of the conclusions adopted during this session, in accordance with the provisions of rule 15 of the draft rules of procedure being applied. He informed the APA that additional resources in the amount of EUR 82,000 will be required to cover the cost of the activities mandated over and above the approved core budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

30. He also informed the APA that, pursuant to paragraphs 5–9 of decision 1/CP.23, the COP 23 President, in consultation with the COP Bureau and the Co-Chairs of the APA, had assessed the need for an additional negotiating session to facilitate the timely completion of the work under the PAWP and that it had been decided that the session will be held in Bangkok in September 2018. The total estimated cost of the additional session amounts to EUR 2.6 million. While most of the participation cost for the session is covered, a total of EUR 1.5 million is still required under the Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities to cover the logistical arrangements for the session.

31. The Deputy Executive Secretary took the opportunity to inform Parties that, with regard to COP 24, an amount of EUR 2.2 million has yet to be secured under the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process to enable the participation of representatives of eligible Parties.

32. He noted that these amounts were preliminary and based on the information available at that time. He expressed the hope that the secretariat can count on the continued generosity of Parties to provide additional funding in a timely and predictable manner. He also noted that without supplementary contributions the secretariat will not be in a position to make the required arrangements.

2. Closure of and report on the session

33. At its 14th meeting, the APA considered the draft report on this part of the session and authorized the APA Co-Chairs on behalf of the Rapporteur to complete the report thereon with the assistance of the secretariat.

34. At its 15th meeting, on 10 May, which was held jointly with the 4th meetings of the SBI and the SBSTA, the APA heard statements from Parties and observers. Statements were made by 19 Parties, including 14 on behalf of groups of Parties, namely: the African Group; the Alliance of Small Island States; the Arab Group; Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay; the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – Peoples' Trade Treaty;

[9] FCCC/APA/2016/2, paragraph 21.

the Coalition for Rainforest Nations; the Environmental Integrity Group; Brazil, China, India and South Africa; the European Union and its member States; the Group of 77 and China; the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean; the least developed countries; the Like-minded Developing Countries; and the Umbrella Group. Statements were also made on behalf of environmental NGOs, indigenous peoples organizations, local government and municipal authorities, research and independent NGOs, women and gender NGOs and youth NGOs.[10]

35. At the end of the joint plenary, following the determination that an additional negotiating session is needed, the session of the APA was suspended. It will be resumed in Bangkok in September 2018 in conjunction with the resumed forty-eighth sessions of the SBSTA and the SBI to address matters relating to the PAWP in accordance with annex I to decision 1/CP.23.

[10] As footnote 5 above.